



LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L   R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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1966

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C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

GEORGE LEEDER, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

J.B. DUCKWORTH, A.R.S.H.

Public Health Inspectors

C. MATHESON, M.A.P.H.I.

D.G. HOBDAI, M.A.P.H.I.

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T.W. HOWELLS

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Office Staff

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Sanitary Foreman/Rodent Officer

F. FEARN.



LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1966

To the Chairman and Members,  
Lichfield Rural District Council.

I must begin this introduction by apologising for the very late appearance of this report for 1966, coming, as it is now doing, when a further year has already almost passed. This has been due to circumstances outside my control, but I have endeavoured to make amends by making comments, in one or two parts, on events taking place since the end of 1966, and even looking a little into the future, as far as it can now be seen.

As the various relevant matters are fairly fully dealt with under the respective headings, I am not making any further reference to these, so far as this introduction is concerned, apart from drawing attention, at this point, to the very large volume of development work now being carried out by the Council in relation to modern sewerage arrangements, as set out by the Surveyor in his section of the report.

I would again thank both Members and other Officers of the Council for their continued co-operation and support during 1966.

C.E. JAMISON  
Medical Officer of Health.

Rural Council House,  
18th December, 1967.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

The following figures show the area, population, number of inhabited houses, total rateable value of property of all types and the product of a penny rate:-

Area (in acres) ... ..	83,527
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	46,900
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	15,964
Total Rateable Value ... ..	£1,845,867
Net Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£7,326

It will be noted that the area of the district varied from that given in previous years, due to the small boundary adjustment which reduced the area by just under 400 acres. On the other hand, the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, increased by a similar proportion to that shown in other recent years. Similarly, the number of occupied houses again increased substantially during the year, as the result of the large number of houses now being built, on housing estates, for people wishing to move out from neighbouring boroughs. The substantial increases in total rateable value and in the product of a penny rate followed as a direct result of the house-building already referred to, together with the quite considerable construction of commercial premises of various kinds.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

Live Births -	Male.	Female	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	596	563	1,159
Illegitimate ... ..	18	18	36
Total	614	581	1,195

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - 25.5

Still Births -	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	8	7	15
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-	-
Total	8	7	15

Still Birth Rate 1,000 Total Births - 12.4

Deaths in infants Under One Week	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	7	4	11
Illegitimate ... ..	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	8	4	12

Perinatal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Births - 22.3

Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	8	5	13
Illegitimate ... ..	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	9	5	14

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 11.7

Deaths in Infants Under One Year	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	9	6	15
Illegitimate ... ..	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	10	6	16

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 13.4

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths (All Ages)	273	291	564

Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 12.0

It can be seen that 36 live and still births out of a total of 1,210 live and still births were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in every 34. This compares with figures of one in 27 in 1965, one in 28 in 1964, one in 25 in 1963, one in 17 in 1962, one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960, one in 30 in 1959 and 1958 and one in 22 in 1957. It may be noted that the figures compare well with the figures for other recent years. It is also satisfactory to be able to record that the figure compares very favourably indeed with figures for other local authority areas in the Midlands.

Fortunately, no stillbirth and only one infant death occurred in an illegitimate infant. Consequently, no significant comparison can be made between the rates in question in legitimate and illegitimate infants.

The following table shows how the figures for 1966 compare with those for earlier years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1954	42,580	13.6	13.7	26.0	25.9	10.3
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5
1963	41,950	18.6	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.8
1964	42,880	20.6	18.9	11.3	13.6	10.3
1965	44,730	24.4	18.9	9.2	11.0	11.6
1966	46,900	25.5	12.4	11.7	13.4	12.0

It will be seen that, taken as a whole, the figures compare very favourably with other recent years, all the figures relating to foetal and infant deaths being well below the average of the previous five years, and even further below the average of the last ten years. The increase in the birth rate again reflects the influx of young married couples into new housing accommodation. The death rate for persons of all ages is less satisfactory, being well above the average of other recent years. No really satisfactory explanation can be formed for this increase, but it can be added that the national death rate in 1966 was also somewhat higher than in either of the previous two years.

After the usual adjustment of the birth and death rates, in accordance with the birth and death comparability factors provided by the Registrar General, to take account of the differences in age and sex distribution in Lichfield Rural District and in England and Wales as a whole, the local and national figures are as set out below:-

Place	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
LICHFIELD R.D.	25.5	12.4	11.7	22.3	13.4	10.7
England and Wales	17.7	15.4	12.9	26.3	19.0	11.7



Assuming a high birth rate to be, on the whole, desirable from a public health aspect, it is pleasant to be able to record that all the local figures, without exception, compare favourably, on this occasion, with the national ones.

The following table shows the causes of deaths during 1966 of persons ordinarily resident in Lichfield Rural District, regardless of where the deaths actually occurred:-

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total 1961	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	1966		
						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1	2	3	1	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, Other	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	10	9	9	14	6	10	3	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	12	15	18	15	14	1	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	9	5	10	8	10	-	13	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	4	1	3	2	3	-	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	38	34	33	22	37	24	21	45
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	3	3	1	4	1	6	7
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	58	53	64	74	78	26	44	70
Coronary Disease, Angina	102	79	69	89	114	49	46	95
Hypertension with Heart Disease	12	9	11	5	8	3	11	14
Other Heart Disease	55	54	47	47	44	23	25	48
Other Circulatory Disease	17	16	17	10	12	9	14	23
Influenza	9	9	1	3	1	4	2	6
Pneumonia	42	50	48	35	67	25	54	79
Bronchitis	19	31	26	18	32	17	7	24

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total 1961	Total 1962	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	1966		
						Male	Female	Total
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	5	6	8	7	10	6	4	10
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	4	3	6	5	2	2	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	4	2	1	2	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	2	2	-	3	-	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	3	1	4	-	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	8	4	1	4	5	4	1	5
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	62	53	55	36	27	28	23	51
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	8	8	14	18	8	5	13
All Other Accidents	6	10	8	6	11	9	2	11
Suicide	3	3	3	6	4	1	-	1
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
TOTALS	492	466	452	441	517	273	291	564

As recorded on an earlier page, twelve of the 16 infant deaths actually occurred before the end of the first week of life, a further two between one week and four weeks and the last two deaths between four weeks and the end of the first year of life. In the first group, death was attributed to prematurity in six cases, two of these occurring in twin pregnancies, to congenital abnormalities, sometimes multiple, in four cases, to bronchopneumonia in one case, while the remaining death was due to stabbing of a homicidal nature. Both the deaths occurred between one week and four weeks were related to severe congenital abnormality. The two deaths occurring in infants of between four weeks and one year were both attributed to aspiration of stomach contents following vomiting, occurring in one of these infants in a child with a severe congenital defect. Taking the infant deaths as a whole, it is again obvious that almost all are linked, in one way or another, with either prematurity or severe congenital defects, and that only limited further progress can be hoped for until such time as the basic cause of these abnormalities can be established by detailed research.



Of the seven children who died at ages between one and five years, two died of cancerous conditions occurring in children, two as a result of accidents, one from a complication of epilepsy and the remaining two children from respiratory infections, in one child being associated with congenital abnormality. The figures again illustrate the much more remote relationship now, as compared with earlier years, between child deaths and the common infectious diseases of childhood.

This fact is also borne out by the three deaths occurring between the ages of 5 and 15 years, one of these being attributable to drowning, one to a traffic accident and the remaining one to a rather unusual infectious condition not commonly occurring in childhood.

It is also notable that, of seven deaths occurring between the ages of 15 and 25 years, no less than five were due to traffic accidents, showing the major part played by this hazard in the lives of the adolescent and the younger adult. Of these victims of traffic accidents, one was riding a motor cycle and one a pedal cycle at the time of the accident. The figures tend to confirm the relative vulnerability of the riders of these types of vehicle.

Coming to the other end of life, it may be noted that no fewer than 389 out of the total of 564 deaths occurred at ages over 65 years. It is again significant that male deaths exceeded female deaths at all ages up to 75 years, while beyond that age there were 167 female deaths, as against only 91 male deaths, illustrating yet again the greater longevity of the female, as contrasted with the male.

Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus were equal in numbers to those in 1965. In accordance with the usual pattern, all but one of these deaths occurred in men. Twelve of the male deaths and the only female death involved persons of between 55 and 65 years of age, only one death from this cause taking place in a person over 65 years of age. This is in notable contrast to cancer of the stomach, where 9 out of 13 deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age, to cancer of the breast, where 6 out of 13 deaths were in women over that age, to cancer of the uterus or womb, where all three deaths occurred in women over 65 years of age, and also in marked contrast to all the other cancers, grouped together, where 30 out of 45 deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age. It is obvious, from this comparison, that cancer of the lung and bronchus tends to cause death at a markedly earlier age than do the other cancers. This makes the case all the stronger for really effective action to reduce the major cause of this particular cancer, cigarette smoking, particularly in the young, in whom the habit, or addiction, is not yet firmly established. It should be emphasised that this action must be national rather than local, and could at least take the form of complete abolition of all forms of advertising, with diversion of the monies saved by the manufacturing companies to the hard-pressed Chancellor of the Exchequer. This would, almost certainly, have vastly greater effect than all the health education now undertaken on the subject.

Deaths attributed to influenza were again relatively few in number, and those which did occur were almost all at ages over 65 years, in two cases at ages over 75 years, as a terminal illness affecting the elderly.

The number of deaths resulting from pneumonia was rather greater than in any other recent year, while deaths from bronchitis were similar in number to recent figures. In both diseases, death occurred mainly in persons over 65 years of age, and almost entirely in those over 55 years of age. It will be noted that deaths from pneumonia were much more frequent in the female than in the male, due to the frequency of pneumonia in the much more numerous elderly female population, while deaths from bronchitis were much more numerous in men than in women, no doubt due to the higher incidence of this disease in men than in women, largely attributable, as in the case of lung cancer, to the fact that, among the elderly, many more men than women have been heavy smokers of cigarettes for long periods of time.

Deaths resulting from traffic accidents have already been mentioned in paragraphs relating to deaths in children and young people, and are not, therefore, further referred to here.

Of the accidental deaths not related to motor vehicle accidents, the main cause in 1966 was accidents occurring in men in the course of their work, four of the 11 deaths falling into this category, with two of these four deaths occurring in miners. Only one of the deaths, this year, involved an elderly person dying as the result of an accident occurring in his home.

It is a notable improvement on other recent years that only one suicidal death was recorded. This was in a middle-aged man, who died after swallowing a corrosive poison.

On the negative side, it is satisfactory to record that, for the fourth consecutive year, no death was attributed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year, and also the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

Disease	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Scarlet Fever	20	27	35	43	39	15	4	6	8	21	25
Whooping Cough	62	69	22	27	50	13	11	6	27	6	22



Disease	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Measles	23	655	258	196	61	768	56	674	199	342	311
Poliomyelitis	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	11	5	3	1	1	-	3	-	-	2	-
Pneumonia	20	17	33	69	34	59	26	23	9	29	32
Dysentery	26	6	8	23	-	9	21	5	3	6	16
Food Poisoning	4	10	6	3	61	6	18	4	-	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	-	-

Although larger than in the previous year, the number of cases of scarlet fever notified was again small in comparison with the population at risk, once more confirming that this particular disease can be controlled without recourse to preventive inoculation.

The number of cases of whooping cough was considerably higher than in the previous year, but much smaller than in the days before vaccination of children against the disease. There were no deaths from this potentially very serious disease. Taking the picture as a whole, it is clear that the high hopes entertained in relation to the vaccine now used, at the time of its introduction, have been fully justified.

Measles was again relatively prevalent during the year, in spite of the quite high incidence of the previous year, usually followed by a period of reduced incidence. As mentioned in my last report, the disease is not, in this district, now showing the usual biennial incidence to the same extent as formerly. Although vaccination against the disease has now been introduced on a small scale, it has not, as yet, had any chance to erect the beneficial influence which may reasonably be expected in the fairly near future.

Although the number of cases of pneumonia notified was larger than in the previous year, no great significance need be attached to this, as there is no evidence, under modern conditions, of any tendency for the spread of the disease to assume the character of an epidemic. Comments have already been made, in an earlier part of this report, on the fact that deaths from the disease now occur largely in the elderly, who tend to succumb to the disease during the more severe weather conditions of the winter months. The discrepancy between the number of notifications and of deaths is, of course, due to the fact that only certain types of pneumonia are notifiable. It may also be added that there does not now appear to be any useful purpose to be served by the continuance of this particular disease as a notifiable one.

The number of cases of dysentery notified was larger than in any year since 1962. The increase was due to two small outbreaks. One of these outbreaks was related to an outbreak in a school outside the district, attended by a number of children from the parish involved. The other outbreak involved persons, mainly children, living on a residential caravan site. Although the caravan site in question comes fully up to accepted standards, it appears probable that there is a connection between living conditions on a large caravan site and the spread of this particular infection, as other cases of dysentery have occurred in children on the same site in recent years. The remaining cases occurring in 1966 were sporadic ones, without any ascertainable connection between them. The necessary measures of investigation and prevention were carried out, in conjunction with the family doctors concerned, involving, in one instance, a person working in a small shop selling foodstuffs. Although conservative, the measures taken appeared to be adequate and successful in limiting the spread of infection.

The one case of food poisoning occurred in a family with good standards of hygiene. Co-operation in preventive measures was good, and no spread of infection occurred.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis notified and of deaths from the disease during the year, are set out below:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-



As will be seen, three of the four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the only case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in men. Unlike the previous year, when the disease occurred mainly in relatively young persons, the incidence in 1966 was much more equally spread throughout the age-groups.

The one death occurred in a man of 75 years, who actually died of bronchopneumonia, although he was also suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis at the time of death, which was regarded as contributing to the fatal outcome.

The following table shows how the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis compared with those for preceding years:-

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1952	14	10	6	4	1	2	-	2
1953	15	15	2	1	3	3	-	-
1954	17	20	5	2	8	1	-	1
1955	10	8	2	3	-	-	-	-
1956	9	9	2	1	-	-	-	-
1957	14	10	1	1	1	-	-	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
1959	8	8	-	-	4	1	-	-
1960	5	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
1961	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1962	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
1963	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
1964	4	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
1965	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
1966	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-

It will be seen that the figures for new cases in 1966 compared very favourably with those for all previous years except 1965, while the one death equalled the figures for the previous year and for 1961 and 1962, and was better than the figures for all other years in the last decade.

Measures for investigation and surveillance remained unchanged, and appeared to be successful in preventing the spread of infection from known cases to the community at large.

## ANTHRAX

Notices in respect of suspected cases of anthrax were received on two occasions during the year, but the infection was confirmed only in one of these cases. The usual precautions were taken by the police to prevent the spread of infection.

No notifications were received in relation to infection in man.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

Available facilities for investigation, treatment and surveillance remained unchanged, patients having to travel to hospitals at Birmingham, Walsall, Stafford and Burton-on-Trent for this highly specialised service. The arrangements appear to work well.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

These also continued unchanged, and worked very well indeed, all necessary services and advice being freely available at the County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

In the absence of any large epidemic necessitating admission to hospital of patients suffering from infectious diseases, the arrangements for transfer of sick patients to Moxley and East Birmingham Hospitals appeared to be adequate.

As regards hospital accommodation for other conditions with a public health aspect, the shortage of beds for maternity and geriatric, or elderly patients continued to be acute, throughout the year, throwing an undue burden on the domiciliary midwifery, district nursing and home help services. The shortage of maternity beds has, of course, since disappeared, with the provision of maternity beds at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, but the shortage of geriatric beds remains, and will continue to do so until further geriatric beds become available, also at Good Hope Hospital, in the fairly near future.

In the meantime, the supportive services in the home played their part, together with assessment of priorities for available beds, in reducing hardship to patients and their relatives to a minimum.



## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Arrangements remained as in previous years, with day-to-day administration of these services, for which the County Council is statutorily responsible, operating from the Area Health Office in Lichfield.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

As in other recent years, it was possible to achieve necessary admissions to hospital by persuasion, rather than by the use of statutory powers of compulsion, as is usually feasible if compulsion is reserved for cases of real danger to public health or considerable physical suffering of an avoidable character. This does, of course, involve allowing patients to remain at home who would obviously be better cared for in hospital or other suitable institution, and accepting the risk of accidents in the home, due to increasing frailty and senility, but it is felt that, except in extreme cases, this is the lesser evil, as compared with use of powers of compulsion. The policy appears to work reasonably well, when supported by assistance through the district nursing, home help services and, in many cases, voluntary assistance given by neighbours and other kind-hearted people.

## WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

Much voluntary work in connection with recreation and general welfare of old people was, as in other recent years, carried out by Old Peoples' Welfare Committees and other voluntary organisations in a number of parishes. The Council assisted eight of these organisations with grants towards specific activities to a total of £250.

## FOOD

Particulars of inspection of food premises etc. will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

Of foods sampled by the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, all but four of the 123 samples proved to be genuine. The exceptions included a sample of nuts which were not all of the kind described, a meat preparation which was deficient in meat content, shrimps which were incorrectly labelled and a sample of milk found to contain added water. The seller in the first instance was fined, but explanations were accepted in relation to the other offences.

The results of the examination of milk for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation, and the presence of tubercular bacilli were as follows:-

Grade of Milk	RESULTS							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanli- ness).		Phosphatase (Pasteurisa- tion)		Turbidity (Steriliza- tion)		Biological (Tuberculo- sis)	
	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Neg	Pos
Untreated Farm Bottled	16	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Pasteurised	239	11	256	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised Homogenised	34	-	38	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilized	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	-
Totals:	289	11	294	-	87	-	21	-

It will be seen that, apart from the methylene blue test for cleanliness, all the remaining tests were fully satisfactory. The results of the methylene blue tests were roughly similar to the previous year when eight out of the smaller total of 197 samples were found to fail the test.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company again reported that the supply from the eleven pumping stations which supply the district continued to be satisfactory, both in quantity and quality, although the composition naturally varied from place to place, according to the strata from which the supply was drawn. The quality was confirmed by sampling of domestic and other taps, the samples being satisfactory in the vast majority of cases. As in other years, chlorination, was practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the pumping stations and in all cases of suspected contamination following burst pipes, emptying of reservoirs etc.

In view of recent reports of isolated cases of cumulative lead-poisoning, in other parts of the country, due to lead service pipes, it is satisfactory to note that the waters used do not dissolve lead readily, and that few of the tap samples contain appreciable quantities of lead, none being outside the recommended limits.

As regards fluoridation of the local water supplies in order to remedy the deficiency in natural fluoride, it must be regretted that, in this part of the Midlands, vociferous opposition by a small minority still prevents this important public health measure being made available for the large majority who would welcome it. It would appear that statutory action, as approved in certain states in U.S.A. and Australia, may be necessary before adequate further progress can be made in this country.



## HOUSING

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the position in relation to re-housing and the waiting list for council houses during 1966, was as follows:-

Waiting List at 1st January, 1966	...	893
Rehoused in New Houses during 1966	...	22
Rehoused in Relet Houses during 1966	...	114
Waiting List at 31st December, 1966	...	884

I understand from the Housing Manager that, out of 22 families rehoused in new houses and 114 families rehoused in relet houses during the year, 17 of the rehoused families came from houses already determined to be unfit for human habitation and four families from caravans. The total of 17 families rehoused from unfit houses in 1966 compared with figures of 56 families in 1965, 25 in 1964, 14 in 1963 and 61 in 1962. The relatively unsatisfactory figure for 1966 was due partly to the continuance in 1966 of the factor mentioned in my report for 1965, unavailability of replacement houses in Elford and Fazeley, due to difficulties in acquisition of sites for council houses, and partly to the very considerable demands necessarily made on available houses in 1966 for rehousing of tenants of temporary prefabricated houses. Fortunately, the first of these difficulties has now been overcome, while the second should be resolved during 1968, when replacement of temporary houses should be finally accomplished. It would, therefore, seem that, while the figures for 1967 will not be very gratifying, so far as clearance of unfit houses is concerned, the picture for 1968 should be very much better.

It will be seen from the preceding table that, although 136 families were rehoused in 1966, the waiting-list only fell from 893 to 884 families. Even this, however, was an improvement on the previous year, when, in spite of 190 rehousing, the waiting-list increased from 804 to 893 families. It is obvious that, in spite of the large building programme undertaken in recent years, the demand for council houses for general needs, as distinct from slum clearance, continues unabated. This is, therefore, a material factor affecting the speed with which clearance of unfit houses can be accomplished.

The following table shows the statutory action taken by the Council during the year in relation to houses considered to be unfit for human habitation:-

Property	Statutory Action
1, Union Street, Chasetown	Undertaking Accepted 28th January
216, Chorley Road, Chase Terrace	Undertaking Accepted 25th March
1,2,3,4 and 5, Rookery Cottages, Pinfold Hill, Shenstone.	Undertaking Accepted 25th March
Barns Farm Cottages, Thorpe Constantine	Undertaking Accepted 25th March
212 and 214 Chorley Road Chase Terrace	Undertaking Accepted 24th June
169, Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace	Undertaking Accepted 22nd July
Hill House, Harlaston	Undertaking Accepted 22nd July
1,2,3, and 4, Bungalows, Footherley Lane, Shenstone	Undertaking Accepted 25th November
1 and 2, Church Gate Cottages, Elford	Undertaking Accepted 25th November
121, 123 and 125, High Street, Chasetown	Undertaking Accepted 22nd December
90, Main Street, Stonnall	Undertaking Accepted 22nd December

The total of 22 houses in 1966 compared with corresponding figures of 28 in 1965, 28 also in 1964, 55 in 1963, 37 in 1962, 25 in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. The reason for the relatively small volume of statutory action taken in 1966 was similar to that for the number of actual rehousings from unfit property, mentioned in my preceding paragraph, the lack of replacement houses, as it is obviously undesirable to let administrative action get too far ahead of actual clearance of the houses in question. This particularly applied, so far as further statutory action was concerned, in Burntwood and Fazeley parishes. Here also, the figures for 1967, when published, will not show any real improvement, but there are very solid grounds for hope that those for 1968 will show a very much brighter picture, at least as far as Burntwood is concerned. In the case of Fazeley, further action will depend entirely on the availability of further land for the construction of council houses, a matter already being actively pursued by the Council.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The necessary inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, the following being dealt with during the year:-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	102	-	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	20	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	129	54	-	-

The table set out below shows the defects found, and action taken as a result of the inspection carried out:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By J.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	6	-	6	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	9	7	-	7	-

The following table sets out particulars regarding outworkers in the district who carried out work in their own homes during the year:-

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices served	Pro-secu-tions
Making of Wearing Apparel etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	-	-	-	-

As will be seen, the number of outworkers was even smaller than in the previous year, when three were registered. It would appear that the practice of employing outworkers does not fit well into modern working arrangements. In view of the nature of the work being done, it was again clear that no danger to public health is likely to arise.

## SEWERS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

(Prepared by Mr. K. Burkinshaw, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.  
Engineer and Surveyor)

At the majority of the sewage treatment works throughout the Rural District the final effluent has been of a reasonable standard, and on the whole complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission. However, some of the works are heavily overloaded, due to the considerable amount of development that has taken place, and is at present taking place, mainly in the larger villages. The Council have this year let several new contracts to provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in villages where these amenities did not previously exist. Seven contracts are at present under construction, the capital expenditure of these being in excess of £700,000. It is anticipated that further contracts will be let towards the end of the year for the complete sewerage of villages, together with treatment works.

ALREWAS - These works are heavily overloaded, and several minor extensions have again had to be carried out during the year to maintain a reasonable standard of effluent at these works. Proposals for major extensions of these works are included in the Council's programme, and preliminary site investigations have already been carried out. In the village of Fradley an additional small sewage treatment plant has been installed to deal with the new Council housing development. In this village, the general sewerage system is unsatisfactory, and proposals to deal with this will be included in the Alrewas scheme.

ARMITAGE & LONGDON - The sewage treatment works situated at Armitage deals with the drainage from these parishes, the effluent from which is reasonable, having regard to the large amount of development now draining to these works. A contract for the enlargement of these works is at present being carried out, and it is anticipated that work should be completed in the latter part of 1967.

BRINDLEY HEATH - During the past year the bacteria beds have been enlarged and clarifiers fitted in the humus tanks, with the result that these works now produce a satisfactory effluent, complying with the standards laid down by the Royal Commission.

BURNTWOOD - A contract has been let for the first stage of the enlargement and modernisation of these works, and this work should be completed in 1967. Working drawings, bills of quantities and specifications have now been completed for the second phase of the contract, to complete the construction of these works, and it is anticipated that this contract should be completed by the end of 1968. A new pumping station has been constructed at Triangle, which will pump the sewage from the development in this area to the proposed new works at Peters Lane.



The effluent, at present, from the existing works is unsatisfactory, but this is to be expected in view of the very considerable development now taking place in this area, which has led to the works being heavily overloaded.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - Several modifications have been made in the operation of these works, with the result that the final effluent from the works is now satisfactory.

COLTON - The new sewage treatment works is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that these works will be brought into operation in 1967.

CURBOROUGH & ELMHURST - The standard of effluent discharging from these works continues to vary considerably, according to weather conditions, and several modifications are having to be made to maintain a satisfactory effluent.

DRAYTON BASSETT - Excellent results are being obtained from this new sewage treatment works, the effluent being to a very high standard.

EDINGALE - The proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a sewage treatment works have now been submitted to the Minister for approval, and a contract will be let in the near future for the carrying out of this work.

ELFORD. - Work on the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for this village has now commenced, and it is anticipated that this work should be completed during the early part of 1968.

FAREWELL & CHORLEY - The works dealing with the council houses is operating satisfactorily, but it is intended that these works will be disconnected when the new sewers are laid in this village as part of the Burntwood scheme.

FAZELEY - The sewage from Fazeley is dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works, sewers from this area discharging into the main trunk sewer in Watling Street, and passing under the canal into the Tamworth Borough. This trunk sewer is surcharged during the day period, and there are proposals for constructing a relief sewer for this area. The two pumping stations serving this parish both work satisfactorily.

GENTLESHAW - There is no change to report in sewerage conditions existing in this parish:

HAMSTALL RIDWARE - Proposals for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a sewage treatment works are now completed, and it is anticipated that these will be submitted to the Ministry for approval this year and that the work will be commenced during the early part of 1968.



HARLASTON - The treatment works is seriously overloaded, and the effluent from these works is unsatisfactory. A scheme has been prepared for these works to be replaced by a pumping station, which will pump the sewage from this area to the new sewage treatment works to be constructed in the parish of Edingale. All the land acquisitions have now been completed, and the scheme has been submitted to the Minister for his approval.

HOPWAS - These works which were reconstructed before the war, are working reasonably satisfactorily, but will require modification in order to comply with the present day requirements

HINTS - The effluent from the existing works is unsatisfactory, and a contract has recently been let for the re-sewering of this village together with a new sewage treatment works. The work on this contract should be completed in the early part of 1968.

KINGS BROMLEY - The effluent from the existing sewage tank is unsatisfactory, and a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village and the construction of a new sewage treatment works, together with two pumping stations. This scheme has now been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - The new sewage treatment works for the village of Hill Ridware is working satisfactorily, and is now producing a very high standard of effluent. The two new pumping stations discharging to the new works are in good working order.

SHENSTONE - A high standard of effluent is produced by the new sewage treatment works at Shenstone, and during the year two sand filters have been excavated and the material renewed.

The reconstruction of the Stonnall Sewage Treatment Works has recently been completed, and already an improved effluent is being discharged.

Little Aston - The final stage of the construction of these works has been completed and the works is now producing an effluent of a high standard.

STREETHAY - These works were reconstructed during the war in order to deal with the flow from the W.A.A.F. camp. A considerable quantity of trade effluent is being discharged at these works, with the result that the effluent has not been up to the required standard. A new primary filter bed has been recently constructed and an intermediate humus tank has been built. The works is now producing a satisfactory effluent, but further modifications will have to be carried out at these works to treat the incoming sewage at peak flows

SWINFEN & PACKINGTON - The disposal works at Botany Bay to deal with the housing estate is working satisfactorily, and is producing a reasonable standard of effluent.

WALL - A considerable quantity of farm effluent is being discharged to these works, with the result that the effluent has not been up to the required standard. In the Burntwood scheme, allowance has been made to drain the properties in the vicinity of Muckley Corner to the proposed new works at Peters Lane. This will involve the construction of a pumping station.

WHITTINGTON - A contract for the construction of a new sewage treatment works to serve this village and also the drainage from Whittington Barracks is at present under construction, and should be completed by the end of 1967. The existing works is operating satisfactorily and the effluent is of a reasonable standard, having regard to the overload at these works due to the large amount of development now taking place in this village.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of Wigginton Parish which is sewered are quite good, the sewage being dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works.

WEEFORD - There is no change to report in the sewerage conditions existing in this parish.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1966 - 31st March, 1967

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of household refuse has once again been maintained on a weekly basis throughout the District and having regard to the low number of complaints received it would appear that the service has proved to be generally satisfactory.

Delivery was taken during this period of a 50 cu.yd. capacity vehicle and there can be no doubt that because of the continual and rapid new housing development in the District, vehicles of this size, or even larger, must gradually replace existing vehicles if the service is to be operated efficiently.

Whilst collection problems arise frequently from day to day fortunately they can generally be solved by the application of accepted principles of control and management. It is regrettable that the question of disposal cannot be tackled on the same basis. This problem increases in difficulty from year to year. Reference to preceding Annual Reports reveals the ever increasing seriousness of the disposal situation and I have no doubt whatsoever that, in the near future, the complete lack of available tipping land in the area will bring the service to a complete halt unless suitable alternative systems of disposal are agreed.

The question of alternative means of disposal has, of course, been debated with fervour for more years than I care to remember. Final formal approval for the joint construction of an incineration plant with the Lichfield City Council appears to be just around the corner. In view of the serious problems involved I cannot be other than optimistic about the outcome of subsequent deliberations.

During the year the paper baling depot, together with the baling press, was totally destroyed in a fire of unknown origin and this had to be replaced completely at a cost of £1,200.

The total cost of the services for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1967 was £55,218 compared to £48,252 for the previous year.

The unit cost of collection and disposal was approximately as follows:-

	£	s.	d.
Net cost of collection per ton	2	15	8
Net cost of disposal per ton		5	8
Net cost of collection per 1,000 population	1,077	4	3
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 population	109	15	2
Net cost of collection per 1,000 premises	2,780	15	1
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 premises	283	6	9



(b) "Keep Britain Tidy" Campaign

The Council have continued their policy of providing and maintaining litter baskets during the year throughout the District and much time has been spent by the Council's employees cleaning up open land and lay-bys used by picnickers and travellers, particularly during the summer months.

Much concern has arisen once again concerning the considerable increase in the number of cases of irresponsible tipping of unwanted household items in country lanes and open public spaces. Such complaints are invariably lacking in any detailed information which offers any hope of tracing the culprits responsible. I have previously stated the ineffectiveness of the Litter Act and feel that the time has now come when this legislation should be strengthened.

INSPECTIONS.

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made to the various classes of premises etc.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	NUMBER
Atmospheric Pollution	82
Abandoned Vehicles	8
Conversion Grants	24
Improvement Grants	33
Drainage	502
Factories	52
Food Premises	536
Housing Visits and Revisits	539
Infectious Disease	21
Noise Abatement	22
Outworkers	3
Offices and Shops Act	242
Offensive Trades	21
Petroleum Regulations	74
Refuse	98
Rodent Control	111
Rents Act	7
*Slaughterhouses	79
Schools	25
Theatres and Clubs	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	235
Water Supply	25
Miscellaneous	146
TOTAL:	2,901

\*This figure does not include those visits necessarily carried out in connection with meat inspection duties which involves approximately one-third of the departments work.

#### Complaints and Notices

No. of Complaints received	367
No. of nuisances detected as a result of investigation	312
No. of informal notices served	265
No. of statutory notices served	6
Nuisances abated as a result of formal and informal action.	138

#### HOUSING

##### (a) Housing Act, 1957

A total of nineteen houses were dealt with in the year by means of Official Undertakings under Section 16(4) of the Act.

##### (b) Repairs to Houses

There were 3 houses repaired following the service of Statutory Notices and a further 45 houses were repaired after informal action.

##### (c) Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair.

There were no applications by tenants for Certificate of Disrepair. One application was received from a landlord for the cancellation of a Certificate but on inspection of the property concerned the application was refused.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Visits were again undertaken by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself for the purpose of advising intending applicants for Improvement Grants.

# STANDARD GRANTS

		Owner/Occupiers		Tenanted	
		Standard		Standard	
		5 point	3 point	5 point	3 point
1.	Number of applications Received	21	7	2	-
	Number of applications Approved	21	7	2	-
	Number of applications Refused	-	-	-	-
2.	Number of dwellings improved	14	4	7	5
			£.	s.	d.
3.	Amount paid in grants		3,727	8	3
4.	Average grant per house		124	4	11
5.	Number of amenities provided (a) fixed bath or shower			22	
	(b) wash hand basin			25	
	(c) hot water supply (to any fittings)			23	
	(d) water closet			27	
	(e) Food store			18	

# DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

		Owner/Occupiers		Tenanted	
1.	Number of applications Received	4		2	
2.	Number of applications Approved	4		2	
3.	Number of applications Refused	-		-	
4.	Number of dwellings Improved	8		7	
		£	s.	d.	
5.	Amount paid in grants	4,434	3	10	
6.	Average grant per house	295	12	3	



## WATER SUPPLIES.

One complaint of unsatisfactory water supply was received in the Department during the year. The supply was tested and found to be satisfactory. Two other samples of well waters were taken and found to be chemically satisfactory.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were no applications for exemption in accordance with Section 46 relating to the provision of facilities.

It was found that there were 151 contraventions of the Act, and that these contraventions ranged over the whole of the relevant sections. Many of the contraventions dealt with structural repairs and redecoration of premises and a few related to the maintenance of premises which were without abstracts of the Act displayed, thermometers or sufficient first-aid requisites.

Six accidents were reported during the year, and these were all investigated and the coded information submitted to the Ministry of Labour at the end of each quarter. Letters were sent to two employers suggesting precautions which should be taken to prevent recurrences, and subsequent re-inspection revealed that the necessary precautionary measures had been carried out.

Visits are at present being made to detect premises which are covered by the Act, but remain unregistered. Employers are forwarding completed registration forms in respect of these premises.

Table A	Class of Premises	Total No. Registered	Total No. of Registered Premises at End of Year	No. of Registered Premises receiving general inspection in year
Registrations and General Inspection	Officers	2	16	6
	Retail Shops	17	98	22
	Wholesale Shops & Warehouses	1	8	6
	Catering Estabs. & Canteens	NIL	28	12
	Fuel Storage Depôts	NIL	1	-

Table B      No. of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises: 242.

Table C      Class of Workplace      No. of Persons employed

1	2
Offices	131
Retail Shops	324
Wholesale Depots, Warehouses	208
Catering Establishments	194
Canteens	5
Fuel Storage Depots	3
Totals:	865
Total Males:	405
Total Females:	460

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950

There were no complaints received in connection with this legislation during the year.

Further sections of the Act have, of course, been repealed by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 and of the remaining operative Sections dealing with the limitation of the sale of various commodities it is interesting to reflect that in these times of cut price competitive salesmanship no complaints were received from the irate shop-keeper regarding his fellow retailer, which has been the origin of most complaints of this nature in the past. In a full parliamentary calendar no further discussion to amend the present complex legislation was debated and it is sincerely hoped that sound commonsense principles will hold when long awaited amendments are finally considered.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council Rodent Officer made a total of 609 visits in connection with the eradication of rodents during the year. These visits, a decrease compared with last years calls, were made up as follows:-

Contracts at Industrial or Business Premises	...	...	183
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	41
Refuse Disposal Tips	...	...	28
Domestic Households	...	...	357
			<hr/> 609 <hr/>

In addition, 111 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to all classes of premises in an examination and advisory capacity.

Once again there was no evidence of warfarin resistance noted, and this continued to be the main poison used. A certain degree of experimentation was tried out in the use of bases for the acute poisons, and it was found that a mixture of flaked maize and vegetable oil using zinc phosphide proved particularly attractive.

Although not strictly within the purview of the Act, once again the Department's resources were extended in other directions in the service of the ratepayer, and a total of 37 wasps nests were destroyed, 22 premises disinfested of beetles, ants etc., and 16 dead dogs were removed from the roadside.

#### THEATRES AND CINEMAS

Nine premises were inspected in accordance with the provisions of the Theatres Act and as a result of this, 8 licences were issued for the "occasional" use of premises for the production of stage plays and one licence was granted for the continued use of Cinema premises. There were no difficulties in ensuring that the premises were made to comply fully with the Act and Regulations. In this connection, the advice of the County Fire Authority is greatly appreciated.

#### SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act requires the Registration of all premises engaged in the handling of Scrap Metal. Five Certificates of Registration were issued during the year, and a considerable degree of liaison with the Police Authority was required. There were no contraventions of the Act.



## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The number of caravan site licences issued during the year fell to 49 of which 15 sites are recreational and provide 326 caravan spaces and 12 chalets. Whilst the number of licences fell, one site providing 50 caravan spaces being transferred to an adjoining District, following the boundary review, the actual number of caravan spaces shows a slight increase over the previous year, as a result of a new site being brought into operation following a licence granted in October, 1965.

The number of complaints received from caravan dwellers has been remarkably small, and investigation has resulted in ready co-operation by the operatives. Periodic inspections from time to time have shown that conditions generally have been very favourable, with licence conditions being observed.

Unfortunately, once again I have to report that the above remarks cannot be applied to the itinerant caravan dweller. This problem has continued to grow during the year, and far too much time, which can be ill-afforded, has been spent in endeavours to secure their removal. The sanitary conditions left by these persons is disgraceful, and the danger to public health similar to that left by a community of 40 caravans, as happened in this District during the year, cannot be overstressed. The need for action at national level to deal with the itinerant caravan problem is long overdue.

## THE PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACT, 1928 and 1936

There were 136 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit issued during the year.

Considerable correspondence was entered upon during the year regarding siting and constructional details of new installations and once again full advantage was taken of the advice given by the Staffordshire County Council's Chief Fire Officer in respect of safety precautions, for which I am extremely grateful.

One accident was reported following a fire at a garage, resulting from the spillage of petroleum spirit. The circumstances of the fire, during which an employee suffered personal injury, was investigated, and it was discovered that negligence had occurred during the draining of a car petrol tank situated in close proximity to a lighted paraffin heater. The circumstances were reported to the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 13(1) of the governing legislation.

As a result of this accident it was decided to carry out a survey to determine the types of space heating employed in garage workshops. Of the 33 premises inspected it was found that only 10 were provided with heating facilities which could be classed as acceptable. The attention of the proprietors was drawn to the possible resultant dangers in the other premises and it is proposed to carry out further investigations in the near future.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### (a) Meat Inspection

The number of animals slaughtered in the district at the eight licensed slaughterhouses showed an increase of approximately 6,000 over the previous year. Whilst the number of bovine animals slaughtered again decreased, this was more than compensated for by a large increase in the numbers of sheep and calves, the latter being as a result of contract work at one of the main abattoirs. The inspection problems of the Public Health Inspectors increased, although fortunately the local authority was able to secure the services of a replacement in the early part of the year for the Inspector who had resigned several months earlier.

Much of the inspection work is still undertaken outside normal working hours, and meetings and discussions were held with the local butchers' Trade Association, following the implementation of the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, in order to regulate the hours of slaughter. Whilst the effect of these discussions did to some extent reduce the total number of overtime hours involved, the control of Sunday slaughtering being particularly noteworthy, it is true to say that each Inspector must on average still expect to work at least 15 hours overtime on each three-weekly tour of duty. When one considers that this regularly involves travelling a distance of some 30 miles on each evening, a particular hazard in winter on rural roads, I feel that your Public Health Inspectors deserve the highest praise for their extreme diligence in carrying out what is generally accepted as an essential but unenviable task.

During the year a total of 73,456 animals were inspected. The total amount of meat and offal condemned was nearly 39 tons.

It is now two years since a bovine animal was condemned as a result of generalized tuberculosis, and there can be no doubt that the Ministry's eradication schemes have proved their complete success by the elimination of a disease which not so very long ago accounted for a very large proportion of the total weight condemned. It is further interesting to note that cases of Cystercosis Bovis have shown a considerable reduction in the past few years. For example, Cystercosis was detected in only four carcasses this year, compared with seventeen in 1965, twenty eight in 1964 and twenty seven in 1963.



The following statistics give details of the meat inspection service during the year:-

	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS
Carcases inspected	6,442	6,219	13,264	47,493	18
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole Carcase condemned	41	11	10	206	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	747	21	1,396	5,733	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	15.61%	0.52%	10.6%	12.51%	11.11%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	111	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	.046%	-	.84%	-	-
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-



# DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

## All Diseases, except Tuberculosis:

		Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE:	Carcase Meat	14	16	-	25
	Offal	4	6	2	25
CALVES:	Carcase Meat	-	6	3	20
	Offal	-	-	2	4
SHEEP:	Carcase Meat	3	14	2	4
	Offal	11	17	1	18
PIGS:	Carcase Meat	1	2	1	11
	Offal	2	-	2	24
GOATS:	Carcase Meat	-	-	-	24
	Offal	-	-	-	-
		38	5	2	15

## Tuberculosis only:

CATTLE:	Offal	-	-	-	21
PIGS:	Carcase Meat	-	11	3	7
	Offal	-	-	-	6
		-	12	-	6

## (b) Other Foods

Condemnation Certificates have also been issued in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
12 Tins Apples	-	-	2	11	-
68 Tins Apricots	-	-	2	21	1
12 Tins Baby Foods	-	-	-	1	4
47 Tins Baked Beans	-	-	2	12	10
12 Tins Curried Beans	-	-	-	12	-
13 Tins Sliced Beans	-	-	-	11	8
6 Jars Bilberries	-	-	-	4	2
2 Tins Carrots	-	-	-	2	8
2 Tins Chicken	-	-	-	-	7
2 Tins Chopped Ham	-	-	-	-	14
229 Tins Corned Beef	-	2	1	4	13
1 Tin Corned Mutton	-	-	-	-	12
1 Tin Crab	-	-	-	-	8
27 Tins Cream	-	-	-	23	4
1 Tin Custard Powder	-	-	-	1	8
3 Tins Cooking Fat	-	-	1	6	4
11 Tins Fruit Salad	-	-	-	16	11
3 Tins Gooseberries	-	-	-	3	-

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
45 Tins Grapefruit	-	-	1	27	8
33 Tins Ham	-	2	-	16	14
1 Tin Hamburgers	-	-	-	1	-
5 Tins Irish Stew	-	-	-	5	-
7 Tins Macaroni	-	-	-	7	-
31 Tins Evaporated Milk	-	-	-	21	3
36 Tins Mustard	-	-	-	4	8
131 Tins Oranges	-	-	3	6	1
3 Tins Orange Juice	-	-	-	8	8
217 Tins Peaches	-	2	1	3	11
137 Tins Pears	-	1	3	25	-
39 Tins Peas	-	1	1	8	4
92 Tins Pineapples	-	1	-	15	15
1 Tin Pineapple Juice	-	-	-	6	-
5 Tins Pork Loins	-	-	-	15	-
32 Tins Luncheon Meat	-	-	1	17	15
3 Tins Prunes	-	-	-	1	8
85 Tins Rice	-	-	2	27	2
5 Tins Sago	-	-	-	4	11
1 Tin Salmon	-	-	-	-	8
10 Jars Salmon and Shrimp Paste	-	-	-	1	2
1 Tin Shrimps	-	-	-	-	4
13 Tins Soup - Chicken	-	-	-	13	-
8 Tins Soup - Kidney	-	-	-	6	2
4 Tins Soup - Lentil	-	-	-	2	8
4 Tins Soup - Mushroom	-	-	-	2	8
35 Tins Soup - Oxtail	-	-	1	3	14
13 Tins Soup - Tomato	-	-	-	24	12
7 Tins Soup - Vegetable	-	-	-	7	-
2 Tins Steak & Kidney Pie	-	-	-	2	-
16 Tins Steak	-	-	-	8	-
3 Tins Tomato Puree	-	-	-	15	-
1 Bottle Tomato Sauce	-	-	-	-	7
8 Tins Tongue	-	-	1	5	-
6 Tins Jellied Veal	-	-	1	8	-
6 Tins Mixed Vegetable	-	-	-	10	4
TOTAL:	-	18	3	19	1

(c) Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

The observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions in connection with the operation of the slaughterhouses in the District was maintained during the year. As a result of the meat inspection duties the public health inspectors are able to exercise close control over the day to day working of these premises, and accordingly no adverse criticism was expressed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Divisional Veterinary Officer following his annual inspection.

During the year one slaughterhouse operative has constructed a new cooling room, whilst a further owner has carried out extensive works of reconstruction and modernisation including the installation of cold blowers in the hanging room, which has greatly improved hygienic standards and the keeping quality of meat stored.

Three persons were successfully prosecuted for using tobacco whilst engaged in the handling of meat at a slaughterhouse. As in previous cases, heavy fines were imposed by the Magistrates, and one wonders to what extent proceedings and fines will eventually have to be taken in order to impress upon persistent offenders the unqualified intention of eliminating the undesirable habit completely in such premises.

(d) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Whilst it has been the practice to carry out routine inspections of food premises from time to time as part of each inspectors general duties, inevitably this has resulted in a certain degree of overlapping, and in some instances premises have been overlooked. In the early part of the year it was decided to re-organise duties and a certain amount of specialisation was introduced. Subsequently a complete survey of all retail shops, licensed premises, cafes and other premises used for the preparation, handling and manufacture of food was commenced.

The work involves formal inspections of all such premises, carried out in a systematic manner throughout the Rural District, and a new card index system is gradually being formed, incorporating full details of the facilities provided and the conditions relevant at the time of the original inspection together with provision for details of the improvements effected in premises found not to be up to the required standard. The survey has involved and will involve, a considerable amount of work, and to date seven parishes have been completely surveyed. The remaining parishes will receive primary inspections, although staff shortages have unfortunately curtailed the work for long periods.



Full details of the inspections are appended below:-

Total No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	129
Total No. of inspections and reinspections	...	...	...	536
Total No. of notices served	...	...	...	201

CONTRAVENTION	No. of Contraventions found	Contraventions complied with
1. <u>Sink provided for washing food and equipment.</u>		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	19	9
(b) No sink provided	16	5
(c) Sink defective	11	9
(d) In room communicating with water closet	4	2
2. <u>Wash-hand basins</u>		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	11	7
(b) No wash-hand basin provided	32	20
(c) Defective	6	4
(d) No soap, towels, nailbrushes provided	20	13
3. <u>Foodrooms</u>		
(a) Structure in state of disrepair etc.	52	17
(b) In need of redecoration	49	28
(c) Communicates directly with sanitary conveniences	22	9
(d) Furnishings utensils and equipment dirty or defective	42	21
(e) Food exposed to risk of contamination	21	13
(f) Inadequate lighting and ventilation	35	19
(g) No proper storage for outdoor clothing etc.	10	8
(h) Accumulations of refuse and miscellaneous rubbish	23	16
(i) Inadequate facilities for preparation of food.	8	4

CONTRAVENTION	No. of Contraventions found	Contraventions complied with
4. <u>Sanitary Accommodation</u>		
(a) Inadequate, defective, dirty or otherwise unsatisfactory	81	47
(b) No handwashing notices displayed	31	24
5. Evidence of smoking	4	5
6. Unhygienic practices discovered	27	19
7. Drainage defective	13	5
8. No first aid equipment provided	21	13
9. Inadequate or unsatisfactory refuse storage	11	9
10. Premises so unsatisfactory as to warrant complete closure	2	1
TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS:	571	-
TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS COMPLIED WITH (TO DATE)	-	327

One of the most noteworthy factors to come out of the survey so far has been the general unsatisfactory condition of licensed premises. Perhaps this has been a class of premises that in the past has not been regarded highly in the 'food premises of potential danger status'. Nevertheless, they are premises which are fully covered by the requirements of the Regulations, and as such they should receive the same degree of attention.

Cellars in particular provided the most startling contraventions, and one wonders at the reaction of the pressure advertised customer if he were to see the all too familiar cellar, with defective walls covered with a black mouldy slime, rotten wormeaten beams, broken and uneven floors subject to flooding from time to time, and lacking washing and cleansing facilities, from which his beer was drawn.

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There were 11 complaints of unsound food investigated during the year. In the case of three of them the Health and Development Committee recommended that proceedings be instituted against the offenders.

One case, which involved the sale of mouldy sausage rolls to a housewife from a bakers delivery van, was particularly unusual in that the goods in question were not at any time viewed or examined by a member of the staff. This resulted from a prior visit to the home of the complainant by the firms depot manager, who by unjustified statements intimating correct procedure, persuaded the reluctant housewife to part with the evidence and subsequently burnt them soon afterwards. Evidence as to the mouldy condition of the sausage rolls was given by near neighbours and a local shopkeeper, and as a result of the proceedings the firm were fined a total, with costs, of £46. 12s. 0d. for selling food not of the substance demanded and £5. 0s. 0d. with £10. 10s. 0d. costs for obstructing a Public Health Inspector in the execution of his duties.

In another case fines of over £40. 0s. 0d. with £12. 12s. 0d. costs were imposed upon a dairy firm for selling two bottles of milk containing mould growths.

A third case, concerning the sale of a black pudding containing a fly, resulted in a fine of £10. 0s. 0d. with £10. 10s. 0d. costs being imposed upon the negligent firm.